

Specials on Kennedy remember, investigate

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NEW YORK (AP) — Television viewers are being offered basically two ways of marking the 25th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's assassination — as nostalgia or as unsolved mystery.

The most compelling special is most likely to be the Arts & Entertainment Cable Network's uninterrupted six hours of NBC's news coverage of the assassination as it appeared on the network 25 years ago. The special even begins on the dot at 1:56 p.m. EST on Nov. 22 by breaking into regular programming.

CBS will offer highlights of its coverage, too, in a two-hour special on Nov. 17.

NBC and HBO plan commemorative documentaries more about Kennedy's life than his death. In HBO's special, Kennedy himself speaks. NBC's documentary recalls the assassination as it affected the lives of a number of individuals.

Investigative reporter Jae Kennedy family, is divided into three sections, the first from Kennedy's birth through his election to the U.S. Senate. Part two, airing Nov. 13, is called "The Race for the White House." Part three, on Nov. 20, is "The Presidency and the Legacy."

Nov. 15: PBS' "NOVA" science series takes a scholarly look at the question "Who Shot President Kennedy?" Documentary filmmaker Robert Richter put the theories of conspiracy buffs to present-day scientific tests. For instance, he says, updated photo enhancement techniques get a clearer image from a controversial Polaroid picture taken by a bystander that supposedly showed a gunman on the grassy knoll near the motorcade route. The picture was previously considered too blurry to be conclusive.

Nov. 17: CBS' two-hour special, gleaned from its own 53 hours of coverage of the assassination, includes the bulletin that interrupted "As the World Turns" at 1:40 p.m. when then-CBS anchor Walter Cronkite first reported the shooting; the first live reports from the scene; Dan Rather's exclusive report that the president had died; Harry Reasoner's tribute to Kennedy; the arrest and subsequent shooting of Oswald; Kennedy's funeral.

Nov. 21: PBS' "JFK — A Time Remembered" intersperses archival footage with present-day reminiscences by Kennedy associates, reporters and others. Those interviewed include Kennedy aides Dave Powers, Larry

O'Brien and Jack Valenti; reporters Dan Rather, Sarah McLendon, Sander Vanocur and Tom Wicker, and James Felder, a bearer of Kennedy's casket in the funeral procession.

Nov. 22: The Arts & Entertainment Cable Network's "JFK Assassination: As It Happened," a rebroadcast of NBC's coverage of the assassination. A&E is running the six-hour special without commercials. Edwin Newman, a member of the NBC news team covering the assassination, is the host. Viewers who don't have six hours can tune in at 6:30 p.m. for a 90-minute wrap-up. The special will be repeated on Saturday, Nov. 26, beginning at 10:56 a.m.

Nov. 22: Geraldo Rivera is host of "On Trial: Lee Harvey Oswald." This is the five-hour mock trial that aired in England and on Showtime cable in November 1986. U.S. District Judge Lucius Bunton presided and attorneys Vincent Bugliosi, who prosecuted the Manson family, and Gerry Spence, who litigated the Karen Silkwood case, cross-examined actual witnesses. A jury, selected from Dallas residents, found Oswald guilty in 1986. This time, viewers can call a 900 number and register their opinions.

Nov. 22: NBC's one-hour special, "JFK — That Day in November," anchored by Tom Brokaw, will mix archival footage and present-day interviews with individuals reflecting on the way the assassination affected their lives.